

history and the turning point of World War II. Its precedent is the model it provides, even today, for our men and women in combat. During my 31 years of service in the Navy, I witnessed acts of extraordinary bravery and resolve among the men and women under my command. As a Vice Admiral, I was honored to serve with the finest sailors that our country has to offer and witness these men and women perform their duties with the same purpose and spirit that led the Allied Forces to victory 65 years ago.

This past August, I was honored with the opportunity to welcome the 83rd Infantry Division of World War II to my District. Many of these men served in the Battle of the Bulge, and it was with tremendous gratitude and respect that I addressed them, shared my own experiences as a Veteran, and fielded questions. As the son of a Navy Captain who served in the War, I have an understanding of the sacrifices these men made to serve their country, including the years they spent away from home and family. I cannot begin to express how grateful I am to these men and the deep appreciation for all they have done to defend the democratic principles of this nation.

It is with humility and a strong sense of obligation that I ask us to recognize the Allied Forces' victory at the Battle of the Bulge in late January, 1945 and the men who made that victory possible.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF PHIL URBAN

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I am extremely pleased to honor the work of Phil Urban, on the occasion of his retirement as President and CEO from Grange Insurance.

Our nation has always been blessed by the many individuals, who through their innovation and drive led a successful business that impacted a community and its people. Motivated by an unceasing spirit, these entrepreneurs built this great country through their work and accomplishments. Today, the tremendous strength of America and individual communities like Central Ohio are still sustained through the passion and vitality of these dedicated people. Therefore, those who contribute to this heritage deserve to be honored for their service.

As president and chief executive officer, Phil Urban directed Grange Insurance to the heights of its industry, becoming a standout-provider in a crowded market. Phil's unparalleled focus on his craft and drive to succeed helped lead Grange to numerous industry awards and unprecedented profits. Yet, profits cannot solely capture Phil's legacy in our community. Since announcing his retirement earlier this year, Phil has been inundated with an outpouring of affection and praise by his peers and the entire Grange family, all of which can surely attest to the impact he made in his position. The respect he showed for his over 1,500 Central Ohio employees is well-known and is a part of why Grange has become a company emulated and respected by many. Additionally, the weight Phil placed on corporate responsibility led Grange to give mil-

lions of dollars back to greater Columbus, leaving a legacy for Phil that will stand for years to come.

Through such distinction and service to his company and to Columbus, Phil stands as a pillar of our community. I am very pleased to thank him for all he has done for Central Ohio.

I offer my congratulations to Phil Urban for a career spent in service. I hope the spirit he daily brings forth in his life and work continues to inspire his friends and co-workers for years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 191ST ANNI- VERSARY OF THE STATE OF IL- LINOIS

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize a great day in American history. On December 3, 1818 Illinois joined the United States of America. This month marks the 191st anniversary of this event. I join over 12 million Illinoisans in celebrating our great state's inclusion in the Union.

For nearly two centuries, Illinois has occupied an important position within our country. From Illinois, great, transformative leaders have risen to national prominence. In 1830, our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, moved to Illinois where he practiced law in Springfield and served in our state legislature and the U.S. House of Representatives before winning the presidency in 1860. It was in Illinois where Lincoln and foe, Senator Stephen Douglas, debated the issue of slavery, the first of which was in Ottawa. Lincoln proclaimed that, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." It was Illinois that answered Lincoln's call by being the first state to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery. Today, we are proud to have another Illinoisan following Lincoln's legacy in the White House, our 44th President Barack Obama, with whom I served in Springfield and who served our great state in the U.S. Senate.

Illinois is home to a wide array of historic sites testifying to its important role in our nation's history. From Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, a physical remnant of the 1893 World's Fair, to the Cahokia Mounds, a pre-Columbian settlement in the southern part of the state, Illinois bears many of our nation's historical riches.

In addition, Illinois serves as one of the leaders in our nation's economy. Illinois is at the forefront of agriculture. It is the number two producer of corn, number one producer of soybeans in the United States, and a major producer of pork. Illinois is one of our nation's leading transportation hubs, which contribute greatly to our local economy. My district is home to the largest intermodal in the country, which provides thousands of local jobs. Many large corporations call Illinois home, such as State Farm Insurance of Bloomington, which is a major employer in Illinois' 11th Congressional District. Many motion pictures have been filmed in Illinois including the classic film *Blues Brothers*.

Within Illinois, communities from large urban cities to small rural villages come together to form the fabric of the fifth most populous state

in the nation. In my own 11th District, I am proud to serve communities ranging from Peotone, in the near Chicago, to smaller communities, such as Streator and Princeton. In my district and across the state, farmers and urban professionals, teachers and firefighters all compose the diverse body of Americans known as Illinoisans. I am proud to join them today in celebrating our great state.

LEE DERROUGH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding service and leadership of Lee Derrough, on the occasion of his retirement as CEO of Hunt Midwest Enterprises Inc.

Lee is a 1967 journalism graduate of the University of Kansas. Lee faithfully served forty-two years with the Hunt Organization. He began his career as a public relations assistant for the Kansas City Chiefs. Lee then became the Marketing Director for Worlds of Fun, before becoming General Manager of the park in 1974. It was also Lee's idea to develop Oceans of Fun, which, with Worlds of Fun, became the largest tourist attraction for Kansas City, providing hundreds of jobs and opportunities for young people throughout the metropolitan community. Many of the people who worked for Lee have gone on to be major contributors to our community in their roles as lawyers, judges, doctors, teachers and business associates.

Under Lee's leadership, he grew and developed more than 6,000 acres of surface commercial and residential real estate for Hunt Midwest Real Estate Development, Inc. He also served on the Boards of Directors for the Greater Kansas City Chamber Commerce, the Kansas City Chiefs Football Club, the Civic Council of Kansas City, the Clay County EDC, the Missouri Transportation Alliance. Lee also served as the Chairman of the Board for the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City and the Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Kansas City.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Lee Derrough for his dedicated service to the people of Kansas City, Missouri and the Hunt Midwest Organization. I know Lee's colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking him for his commitment to others and wishing him happiness and good health in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on Monday, December 14, 2009, I missed two recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on rollcall 969 and YEA on rollcall 970.